

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, March 1, 2021**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held via zoom on March 1, 2021. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 5:02 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson

David Mann, Vice Chairperson

Trish O'Donnell, Secretary

David Rogers, Member

Lynne Catarro, Member

Dr. Fred Weiss, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 14, 2021 MINUTES

Mr. Rogers moved, Mr. Mann seconded, and the January 14, 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

REAPPOINTMENT

Trish O'Donnell was reappointed for a 2-year term.

Ms. Huchler stated there is an open position as an alternate on the Board. Anyone interested should send their resume to township manager, Kurt Ferguson. Information can be found on the Township website at lmt.org.

TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

Ms. Huchler stated that the community channel had not been updated for several months. Ms. Huchler notified the township manager and the site was updated.

Ms. Huchler also noted that the links on the DAB webpage were no longer valid and the website was cluttered and in need of updating. It should be easier to navigate and more accessible. Ms. Cattarro will look to see what is important, reorganize and include updated links to make it more user friendly and current.

COMMUNITY CENTER DOORS

Bids are being sent out for the installation of new automated doors at the Community Center. There will be 2 sets of doors required with a vestibule in between. Mr. Mann stated there are two possible options:

Push-button access for each set of doors or push-button access that would open both sets of doors at the same time. A possible problem with two access points is the potential for the first set of doors to close on the person while still traveling thru the first set. Mr. Rogers stated he believed the fire code required that both sets of doors open outward. One button operating both sets of doors makes entrance easier but there is more potential heat loss with that system. Ms. Huchler and Mr. Rogers will arrange to meet with Ms. Tierney to discuss and visit the site. Ms. O'Donnell suggested taking a look at the library which has a similar entrance with a push button entrance, a vestibule and a second set of doors.

SECRET GARDEN SHADE PROJECT

Ms. Huchler met with Ms. Tierney and the Scout to discuss the Eagle Scout Project of placing shade sails in the playground. Ms. Huchler also asked about the possibility of planning for additional trees and sails along with the scout project. There seems to be a problem with trees being successful in that area because of the wind and elements. Perhaps there is a tree that can adapt to conditions in that area.

Ms. Huchler and Ms. Tierney discussed the height and size of the sails and placement within the playground. We are currently waiting on Scout to get approval from the Scout Masters for this project and discuss what his fundraising efforts will entail. Mr. Mann asked if the Township could come up with some funding. Dr. Weiss stated that Eagle projects are usually self-funded. Ms. Huchler said the Public Works department may assist with some of the manual labor such as digging the holes, etc. Ms. Huchler noted that another Scout is doing sails at the dog park.

The DAB is excited to have shade in the playground and looks forward to helping and supporting the scout in his project.

UPDATES ON BUILDING PLANS

Prickett Preserve

Mr. Rogers reviewed the plans sent by Mr. Majewski and noted it is still in the preliminary planning phase. As the project moves along Mr. Rogers will get into the detailed ADA design plans. Mr. Rogers stated that since the bridge over Rt. 295 cannot be widened, the pedestrian pathway will only be 8 feet wide with a barrier. He expressed concern with this plan.

Ms. Huchler noted that the Prickett Preserve informal plans were discussed at the last BOS meeting. Ms. Huchler called in to the BOS meeting and read our new Priority Statement so the developers can take our comments and apply them in their final plans. In addition, she suggested that the Prickett Preserve plan should take into consideration providing safe and accessible pathways from the apartments to the shopping areas. Potentially place a safe path along the 295 side to avoid pedestrians having to cross busy intersections to get to stores. The developers brought up a new path leading from the apartments to Edgewood Village by crossing at a point on Stony Hill Rd. to get to a South side path to cross over bridge. We suggest only crossing at the traffic light to ensure safety for residents.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADA TRANSITION PLAN

As part of the Parks and Rec accreditation application process, the DAB has been assisting with the creation of an ADA Transition plan. This is a comprehensive plan to address the issues such as accessibility of all recreational spaces in LMT and identify barriers that may exist for people with disabilities. Ms. Tierney provided a list of all facilities and each DAB member created an excel document with recommendations presented to the Parks and Rec Department for the ADA Transition part of the accreditation process. We have focused on the removal of structural barriers to provide access to programs and services offered to the public.

The Disability Advisory Boards excel document with recommendations of all parks and recreation sites will be included in the final report.

The DAB came up with a set of priorities with a scale of 1-5 to apply to each park # 1 priority is access to park entrance #2 – Accessible paths and access to all amenities within the park. #3 rest rooms #4 grills, seating, concessions. #5 other goods and services.

The DAB also suggested which parks should be prioritized focusing on the sites that are most used. Memorial Park, Macclesfield Park and LMT Community Park area including the pool, tennis courts, Kids Kingdom should be considered first priority.

Mr. Jim Majewski will complete the process and include projected costs for all improvements.

Members of the DAB will review the overall plan and make additional comments to be discussed at the next meeting and then recommend approval to the BOS.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND REMINDERS

Bucks IU Adult Employment Services

Ms. Catarro attended a zoom meeting, February 1, 2021. In attendance were Hillary FitzMaurice, Supervisor Special Education, Laura McCrory, Program Coordinator, Maria Gannon Transition Coordinator and Lynne Catarro LMT Disability Advisory Committee Member

The Bucks IU's Adult Employment Services is currently an approved provider for supported employment services through OVR (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation) and ODP (Office of Developmental Programs). Bucks IU's Adult Employment Services feature job skills training, access to our established partnerships with a wide variety of community businesses located throughout Bucks County, and job search and development supports.

They are currently awaiting final approval through ODP to provide Community Participation Supports, supporting those individuals who need it while accessing opportunities for volunteering, socializing, and pursuing recreation and leisure interests. Persons with disabilities may be eligible for these new Adult Programs and Services.

Adult referrals will be coming from OVR. To date, no private pay will be accepted.

For more eligibility information, the Bucks IU is happy to assist you. Contact the Bucks IU Adult Programs and Services team at 215-348-2940 Ext. 1330, or email AdultPrograms@BucksIU.org. The Bucks IU's Adult Programs and Services are offered in accordance with the Office of Development Programs (ODP) and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).

Ms. Huchler stated that many communities around the area are making long range plans for inclusion a priority.

Mr. Rogers stated that there is great difficulty in getting vaccinated in Bucks County. He further noted that some sites require each person in the household to have their own email address. Mr. Mann stated there are many people in our community that need assistance getting vaccinated. There is limited supply, variations because of where you live, and where health risks place you on the list, and many people who need quick access can't get it.

Ms. Huchler stated that we want to make sure our residents are aware of the SMART 911 system. It is easy to sign up and input as much information as you want to determine the notifications you would like to receive. Smart911 is there so first responders will be aware of important information to help when you call 9-1-1. You can sign up at smart911.com or download the app on your mobile device.

Ms. Huchler also will contact Chief Coluzzi regarding the “Ready Bucks Alert” system. Is it necessary to sign up every year? Those that signed up have stopped receiving notifications.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Catarro stated that the township did a great job plowing her area and asked how plowing is prioritized. Dr. Weiss stated, streets are done by traffic flow. The township has its own trucks and also subcontractors.

Dr. Weiss suggested we try to get the ADA Transition plan approved by our Board as the township will be seeing “a lot of action” in the coming months.

Ms. Huchler asked the members to bring any goals for the 2021 at the last meeting. We discussed important goals for this year:

- Parks and Rec Accreditation ADA Transition Plan

- Assist with Secret Garden Shade Project

- Continue to review building plans

- Prickett Preserve

- Update the DAB webpage on LMT website

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mann moved, Ms. O’Donnell seconded and the motion to adjourn unanimously approved.

Next meeting to be held in April. Exact date, time and place to be determined.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trish O’Donnell
Secretary, Disability Advisory Board